

February 2, 2022

GFM: Rachel Hollis, John Larson, William Roberts, Morgan (GoFundMe), Darcy Welsh, Keelin (Guest)

[REDACTED] Deputy Chief Bell

Teams Meeting GoFundMe (Re: Trucker Convoy Demonstration)

Steve: Briefing council and media on situation as we are exploring it. If you want a sense of what is going on the ground, I'll direct you to our youtube. There is an immense amount of information that we are putting out through our online platforms.

Occupation of our streets, was a demonstration. It's in a smaller geographical area but calling great traffic challenge; not so much an emergency services challenge. But resource deployment and laws being broken, freeing up traffic circulation.

We now have daily infiltration of ppl visiting our city to support the occupiers. Risky, dangerous, hateful, rude dialogue with our community members. They are creating great fear from safety and livability issues within our neighbourhoods; creating safety issues.

Issue w/ protesters traveling on foot to location to help support convoy in a visible way.

Same numbers as last weekend anticipated, and we are also anticipating counter-protests.

As you saw in Alberta, attempts to remove them created even more issues.

City is fed up, afraid, citizens want it to end.

We want it to end, but must weigh and mitigate all the risks.

Morgan:

We are invested in assisting in ending this.

They have put the campaign under review. What that means is that donations have been turned off but campaign is still accessible.

Have you the police been communicating with organizers?

DC Bell: Need to do research and figure out if there are connections with convoy leaders. We have been communicating with many, with respect to the GoFundMe organizers I would need to confirm. Need to go see whether we've had direct communication with [REDACTED], will confirm this.

CH says that real or not, you are perceived as a lifeline for their protest. This is adding to the narrative.

Their POLICY:

Fundraiser generally allowed for protests BUT where it leads to violence or misinformation, they do not allow it.

They placed a withdrawal hold on money. Waiting for due diligence.

They initiated a \$1M withdrawal but the remainder is on hold to gather information about what the rest of the funds are for.

Could communicate to the organizers what they can and can't do with money for it to be withdrawn

Morgan: Protest demonstrations are largely allowed. But then actions of individuals are not aligned with larger movement cause issues. They are growing, and now that's why we put it under review.

If you can provide the names of those you are investigating, we will help ensure that the fundraising doesn't go to them (Steve does not answer).

DC: This is not a protest. This is different, creating public safety issues.

In a normal protest, it does not take several hundred officers per day to manage. 24.7 over elongated period. Many charges, hate. This is creating concerns for safety and public safety.

What is your threshold to determine this is not a supportable, releasable fund protest?

Morgan: Does not have a clear idea of this line. Under the impression this was not a violent event until recent escalations. They are in the process of defining this internally. We don't have all the answers, working on it. They have gotten closer to that line.

DC: reads statement he made. Concerned about public safety, safety of officers.

Morgan: Was this on weekend?

DC: Yes, a bit, we saw volatility and hostility, we were able to manage it. It has boiled over time. This leads to escalation and challenges.

John Larsen: Can this be a war of attrition? If we make it evident that this money is not coming, will they dismantle? Or will they settle in? Can they be choked out from a money perspective?

DC: Difficult to answer. But there is considerable discussion about the money. The money is a focal point.

Morgan: When we remove funding, it often just moves somewhere else. "Gives + Go"

DC: I get that. But my responsibility is to everything within my power to make this peacefully end. If first part of that is engaging in discussion with GFM, I will. And if I have to go talk to another org after this, I will. We want them out of our city in the most peaceful way possible. This will assist us.

I am available to you any time. I want them out of the city and I want it to be peaceful. Call me any time to have that discussion.

Morgan: Turning off donations, does that help or hurt your goal of ending this in a peaceful way?

DC: if its part of fulsome review process, it is helpful. Again, the perception there is a large pot of money.

Rachel: as you release names of folks, we will monitor their names on their system to make sure no fundraisers are started. Don't want people raising funds to pay legal bills.

Bell: We will identify that to you and work towards getting you the names through our online platforms.

CH: Are you asking where the money is going? Are you demonstrating on foot or with the trucks? When you finish reviews of T&C to decide whether or not to release, will you provide us notice of that review?

Morgan: Second question—yes, certainly.

First question—this is written in the document they signed. An agreement that they are abiding by the law and funds are not going to ppl violating the laws. That's a condition they made with us for the first \$1M. Not sure if we can share with you that document. But we ask for specifics about where the money is going. We work to ensure that money is not going to folks violating the law.

William: Need to consult with legal team.

Steve: It is illegal to park a rig on the street and block a roadway. It is illegal to blow your airhorn for 3 minutes straight in a residential area. It is illegal to defecate on someone's lawn.

Morgan: True. But not everyone is violating the laws. We look at who is being charged and ensure money isn't going to those individuals.

Steve: We need to know your definition and thresholds around this. We will then work to provide information to establish a majority of ppl intending to receive this money would be in violation of that. What is your definition of illegal here? Much of it is.

CH: What is different in this protest is that these vehicles actually have license plate numbers. When you're entering into agreements with these ppl, you could say are the ppl receiving these funds associated with these license plates? This would mitigate your future liability.

John Larsen: Is there a point where you don't look at this as breaking criminal code and look at it as more of a mob action? You can't consider whole group with the same negative light, need to take it case-by-case. We need to do the same thing.

DC Bell: Activities engaged in in our city are illegal and inappropriate. I am not concerned about your funders. They are different from the receivers. It is a group effort, that's the power of a demonstration.

Morgan: This was helpful. We will reconvene with our team, and our legal team, and perhaps we can continue corresponding by email. If we think we need to have another meeting like this at some point, we will set it up.